

RAYSTOWN COVERED BRIDGE  
(Diehls Covered Bridge)  
(Turners Covered Bridge)

HAER No. PA-361

TR 418 spanning Raystown Branch of the Juniata River  
Manns Choice vicinity  
Bedford County  
Pennsylvania

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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(Diehls Covered Bridge)  
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HAER No. PA-361

Location: TR 418 spanning Raystown Branch of the  
Juniata River  
Manns Choice (vic.)  
Bedford County  
Pennsylvania

Date of Construction: 1892

Present Owner: Bedford County

Present Use: Vehicular Bridge

Significance: This slightly altered late-nineteenth  
century covered bridge is an excellent  
example of this kind of bridge  
construction in Bedford County. A  
number of other Burr arch covered  
bridges were built in the county at this  
time by local carpenters.

Historian: Elaine J. Will, 1991

Project Information: The results of the study of Bedford  
County were published in 1994: Kim E.  
Wallace (ed), Bedford County and Fulton  
County, Pennsylvania: An Inventory of  
Historic Engineering and Industrial  
Sites (Washington, D.C.: National Park  
Service). The contents of the  
publication were transmitted to the  
Library of Congress as individual  
reports. Research notes, field photos  
and copies of historic photos collected  
during the project were transmitted to  
the AIHP Collection, Special  
Collections, Stapleton Library, Indiana  
University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA  
15705.

Also called Diehl's or Turner's covered bridge, this structure spans the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River just south of the Pennsylvania Turnpike on TR 418. Its superstructure is composed of a Burr arch truss, plank siding that covers the lower one-third of the bridge, and a shallow gable roof. Horizontal beams tied near the top of the arches run the length of the bridge, which is 88'-4" long x 12'-10" wide. The lower portion of the north stone abutment has been reinforced with concrete. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this bridge is still in use and like several other Bedford County covered bridges, bears a sign that promises a "\$5 Fine for Riding or Driving Over this Bridge Faster Than a Walk." It was scheduled for state-funded reconstruction.

Sources:

Bedford County Office of Economic Development. Map-Guide: Covered Bridges in Bedford County. Bedford, Pa.: n.d.  
Zacher, Susan M. The Covered Bridges of Pennsylvania: A Guide. Harrisburg, Pa.: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1989.